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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,555	02/27/2004	Peter G. Knopp	9065.ALG.P	7054
69814 7590 10/08/2008 BROOKS, CAMERON & HUEBSCH, PLLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE, SUITE 500 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403				
EXAMINER				
EIDE, HEIDI MARIE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3732				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/08/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,555

Applicant(s)

KNOPP, PETER G.

Examiner

HEIDI M. BASHAW

Art Unit

3732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16-21 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16-21 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3 and 18 recites the limitation "the duration" in line 1 of each of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16-21 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chishti et al. 5,975,893 (Chishti).
5. Re claim 1, Chishti teaches a method for moving teeth comprising moving at least one first tooth and moving at least one second tooth while isolating the first tooth at a rest position, isolating the first tooth by relieving the first tooth of any applied force (col. 8, ll. 50-67). Chishti further teaches maintaining a space between the appliance and particular regions of the teeth (col. 12, ll. 35-44) inherently relieving the force applied to the first tooth. Chishti teaches "a preferred appliance will comprise a polymeric shell having cavity shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one tooth arrangement. The polymeric shell will preferably, but not necessarily, fit over all teeth present in the upper or lower jaw. Often, only certain one(s) of the teeth will be

repositioned while others of the teeth will provide a base or anchor region for holding the repositioning appliance in place as it applies the resilient repositioning force against the tooth or teeth to be repositioned" (col. 8, ll. 54-63). This reads on the claim because the tooth that's not being repositioned is the tooth that is being isolated by not applying the repositioning force.

6. Re claim 2, Chishti teaches a method wherein the second tooth is moved for a first duration and immobilized for a second duration (col. 8, ll. 50-67).

7. Re claims 3 and 8-12, Chishti does not specifically teach the method wherein the duration is on an hourly basis, a daily basis or a weekly basis, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate any duration of time between moving teeth whether it is weekly, monthly, daily, etc. in order to provide a variation of implemented treatment schedules as suitable to each individual patient.

8. Re claim 4, Chishti teaches the method comprising generating a plurality of appliances base on the moving of the first tooth and the second tooth, wherein the appliances comprise polymeric shells having cavities and wherein the cavities of successive shells have different geometries shaped to receive and resiliently reposition the first and second teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement (col. 4, ll. 7-19, col. 8, ll. 50-67).

9. Re claim 5, Chishti teaches the method wherein a first cavity isolated the first tooth at the rest position (col. 8, ll. 59-60).

10. Re claim 6, Chishti teaches the method wherein a second cavity urges the second tooth to one of the successive positions (col. 8, ll. 54-57).

11. Re claim 14, Chishti does not specifically teach the method wherein the at least one first tooth is a group of contiguous teeth, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate any combination of teeth in order to provide a variation of treatment as suitable to each individual patient.

12. Re claim 16, Chishti teaches a system comprising means for moving at least one first tooth and means for isolating the first tooth at a rest position by relieving the force applied to it, while moving at least one second tooth (col. 8, ll. 50-67). Chishti further teaches maintaining a space between the appliance and particular regions of the teeth (col. 12, ll. 35-44) inherently relieving the force applied to the first tooth.

13. Re claim 17, Chishti teaches a system wherein the second tooth is moved for a first duration and immobilized for a second duration (col. 8, ll. 50-67).

14. Re claim 18, Chishti does not specifically teach the system wherein the duration is on an hourly basis, a daily basis or a weekly basis, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate any duration of time between moving teeth whether it is weekly, monthly, daily, etc. in order to provide a variation of implemented treatment schedules as suitable to each individual patient.

15. Re claim 19, Chishti teaches the system comprising a fabrication machine to generate a plurality of appliances (col. 6, ll. 58-62) wherein the appliances comprise

polymeric shells having cavities and wherein the cavities of successive shells have different geometries shaped to receive and resiliently reposition the teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement (col. 4, ll. 7-19, col. 8, ll. 50-67).

16. Re claim 20, Chishti teaches the system wherein a first cavity isolates that first tooth at the rest position (col. 8, ll. 59-60) and wherein a second cavity urges the second tooth to a successive arrangement (col. 8, ll. 54-57).

17. Re claim 21, Chishti teaches a system for generating one or more appliances for a patient, the teeth including at least one first tooth and at least one second tooth, the system comprising a processor, a display device coupled to the process (col. 5, ll. 49-51), a data storage device coupled to the processor (col. 5, ll. 65-67), a scanner coupled to the processor for providing data to model the patient's masticator system (col. 5, ll. 43-45), means for modeling an isolating the fist tooth at a rest position while moving the second tooth, the isolating of the first tooth by relieving the tooth of any applied force (col. 8, ll. 50-67). Chishti further teaches maintaining a space between the appliance and particular regions of the teeth (col. 12, ll. 35-44) inherently relieving the force applied to the first tooth and a dental appliance fabrication machine coupled to the processor for generating the appliances in accordance with the modeling of isolating the first tooth and moving the second tooth (col. 6, ll. 56-62).

18. Re claims 25-27, Chishti does not specifically teach the method wherein the first or second teeth are in a group of non-contiguous or contiguous teeth, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to incorporate any combination or teeth in order to provide a variation of treatment as suitable to each individual patient.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed June 24, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Chishti does not teach "maintaining a space between the appliance and particular regions of the teeth..." however, a cited above, col. 12, ll. 38-44 of Chishti teaches leaving space between the appliance and the tooth. Applicant further argues that Chishti does not teach moving a first tooth, moving a second tooth while isolating the first tooth at a rest position by relieving the first tooth of any applied force; however Chishti teaches moving some teeth, while maintaining the position of other teeth as discussed above. Chishti also teaches maintaining a space between the appliance and particular regions of the teeth inherently relieving the force applied to the first tooth as discussed above.

Conclusion

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEIDI M. BASHAW whose telephone number is (571)270-3081. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached on 571-272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Heidi Bashaw
Examiner
Art Unit 3732

/John J Wilson/
Primary Examiner
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Examiner, Art Unit 3732

10/1/2008

